

June 10, 2011

New *E. coli* Outbreak Advisory: Warning to Not Eat Raw Sprouts from Northern Germany; Tomatoes, Cucumbers, and Lettuces Are Considered Lower Risk

The previous *E. coli* advisory dated May 27, 2011, which advises against eating or serving raw tomatoes, cucumbers, and lettuces in Europe has been rescinded. The Europe Regional Medical Command and the Public Health Command Region-Europe now advise Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and their families to not eat raw sprouts that were grown or processed in northern Germany. Raw tomatoes, cucumbers, and lettuces appear to present a lower risk to public health.

The rationale for this advisory is based upon German public health authorities reporting the strong associations among the *E. coli* outbreak patients and their visiting or living in northern Germany and consuming raw sprouts in Germany. Specific sources of the outbreak remain uncertain and have not been confirmed.

Raw tomatoes, cucumbers, and lettuces from DoD approved sources within Europe will begin to re-enter the U.S. Government-sponsored commissaries and dining facilities throughout Europe. The supply of raw sprouts in the DoD system was not impacted because DoD approved sources for sprouts are not in Germany.

NOTE: This is an advisory. Individual Commands (DLA, DeCA, and AAFES) may make more restrictive directives than this advisory based on their situation.